

Ali meets Israeli envoy in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali met Israel's Ambassador Moshe Sasson Sunday to discuss bilateral and Lebanese issues, officials said. The officials said the 45-minute discussion dealt with the talks involving Lebanon, Israel and the United States on a withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. They also raised the issue of Taba, a 700 square-metre coastal strip in Sinai over which the two countries have claimed sovereignty since Israel completed its withdrawal from the peninsula last year.

Blizzards kill 27 in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The death toll from blizzards lashing the central Lebanese mountains rose to 27 Sunday with the discovery of 11 bodies in two cars, civil defence sources said. The bodies of sixteen people who had frozen to death were found Saturday, they said. Continuing snowstorms in the area around the Beirut-Damascus road were hampering efforts to rescue stranded cars, radio stations reported.

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Tehran rejects Iraqi peace move

MADRID (R) — President Ali Khamenei of Iran was quoted Sunday as rejecting out of hand an offer by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to travel to Tehran to negotiate an end to the war between the two countries. The Iraqi leader made the offer in an interview last month with Rafael Fraguas, a correspondent of the respected Spanish daily newspaper El Pais. Asked for his reaction by the same correspondent, President Khamenei replied that Iran cannot accept the Iraqi president's proposal.

Numeiri says 4,000 Sudanese are fighting for Iraq

JEDDAH (R) — A thousand regular Sudanese troops and 3,000 volunteers are fighting alongside the Iraqi army in the war against Iran, Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri was quoted as saying Sunday. In an interview with the London-based Saudi newspaper Ash Shaqr Al Awsat he said the troops were sent after all mediation efforts to end the 29-month-old war had failed. Sudan said last month it had sent troops to help Iraq but had not previously given details of the numbers involved.

Car bomb explodes south of Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A car bomb exploded Sunday on a road near Damour south of Beirut, slightly injuring the driver of Lebanese Housing Minister Bahaadin Al Bessat, security sources said. They said the minister was not hurt. An Israeli vehicle which was passing at the time was not damaged.

Iraq sends message to Mrs. Gandhi

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Ismat Kitani left Baghdad Sunday with a message from President Saddam Hussein to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Iraqi News Agency said the message dealt with the work of the non-aligned summit due to open in New Delhi on March 6. It gave no details. The summit should have taken place in Baghdad last September but was postponed and shifted to New Delhi because of the Iran-Iraq war.

Iranian minister, Khaddam confer

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam discussed the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad Azizi Sunday, the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) said. Mr. Azizi, who arrived in Damascus at the head of an Iranian delegation Sunday, carried a message to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad from Iran's President Ali Khamenei, the agency added. It did not give any other details.

Irish rebels kill police reservist

BELFAST (R) — Irish guerrillas shot dead a policeman Sunday and hurled a grenade at the police station at Warrenpoint on the Northern Ireland border, police said. The Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, said it killed the policeman, the fourth to die at the hands of guerrillas this year.

No crisis on Sudan's borders, Cairo says

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Sunday insisted there was no sign of a crisis on the Sudan-Libya border and brushed aside reports that American surveillance planes had flown into Egypt at Cairo's request to monitor a threatened Libyan invasion.

Official sources in Khartoum, where two days ago the official news agency accused Libya of a military buildup on the Sudan border, said about 25 Libyan-trained agents had been arrested in the past three months on charges of plotting subversive acts. The Egyptian dismissal of crisis reports was delivered by Defence Minister Mohammad Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala when he spoke to reporters after a meeting with the visiting U.S. assistant defence secretary, Francis West.

"I see no sign of crisis or of possible aggression on Sudan at present," the minister said. Officials offered no comment on a report by the Washington Post that Egypt had requested U.S. military assistance to counter a reported plot by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to invade Sudan and assassinate Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri.

AWACS in Egypt

President Reagan said last Wednesday that sophisticated Airborne Warning And Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft had been sent to Egypt on exercise. No mention of the AWACS presence was made in the Egyptian press although eyewitnesses reported seeing the aircraft at a military airport. Foreign Ministry officials contradicted Mr. Reagan's statement that U.S. and Egyptian aircraft were engaged in joint exercises. They said Egyptian pilots were simply training on electronic equipment.

This was followed by an insistent denial on the part of Egyptian officials that any request

whatever had been made for U.S. military assistance against Libya. Diplomats said this denial reflected Egypt's current eagerness to maintain a non-aligned posture now it is hoping to resume diplomatic ties with the rest of the Arab World.

The approach of next month's non-aligned summit in New Delhi makes Egypt all the more keen to play down any close association with the United States, the diplomats said.

Egypt has close ties with Sudan and is pledged to defend it against aggression. The two countries are planning an integration programme in which Sudan would grow food for Egypt in exchange for defence, political and other commitments.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazala noted that he and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak would visit Sudan this Tuesday, but said this was a long-standing arrangement to talk about integration and was not connected with any border troubles.

Libyan demonstrations

Libyan Radio, monitored in London, said that for the second consecutive day there were "demonstrations in Libya Sunday against what it called U.S. terrorist provocations and interference against the Libyan people."

The radio said: "The masses participating in the demonstrations expressed vehement wrath and strong denunciation of the U.S. and Zionist presence in Egypt and Sudan, a presence that is aimed at shaking stability and peace in the area."

Arens says U.S.-Israeli relations worst in years

NEW YORK (R) — Israeli Defence Minister-Designate Moshe Arens said in an interview published Sunday that some members of the Reagan administration wanted to kick Israel in the teeth.

U.S. impatience over the progress of talks on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon had contributed to a worsening of Israeli-American relations in recent months, he told the New York Times.

Mr. Arens, the former Israeli ambassador to Washington who has been appointed to replace Ariel Sharon as defence chief, said frustration and anger between the two countries was probably running at the highest level of all time.

Mr. Arens said some U.S. officials had idealistic notions about how quickly a negotiated settlement

could be achieved in Lebanon.

He said the U.S. had appreciated the "elimination" of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syrian military power in Lebanon and what he called an indirect setback to the Soviet Union.

This had brought compatibility between the United States and Israel. But it had been offset by "such a stridency of differences of opinion and such a degree of frustration and anger, like maybe we have never had before in Israeli-American relations," he added.

Mr. Arens, interviewed in Washington on Friday, said: "I think there is a great deal of impatience here, a feeling that things could be moving faster, and this impatience is giving rise in some quarters to suspicions that Israel is stalling."

Nigerian move may spark new oil price-cutting war

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria appeared ready Sunday for an oil price-cutting war following its announcement of a \$5.50 reduction in its crude prices, the first public breach of OPEC solidarity by one of the organisation's 13 members.

The presidential adviser on petroleum and energy, Yabaya Dikko, announcing the reduction Saturday night, made it clear that Nigeria would not allow its new prices to be undercut.

But at the same time he called

on other exporters, whether members of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) or not, to react responsibly to Nigeria's move, prompted by cuts in the price of North Sea oil which competes with Nigerian crude.

"It needs to be reiterated that the restoration of stability and the defence of crude oil markets is a responsibility for both OPEC and non-OPEC exporters alike," he said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday confers with members of a visiting delegation of American mayors (Petra photo)

Regent receives American mayors

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Royal Court Sunday a delegation of eight American mayors from different parts of the United States. The discussions at the meeting dealt with Middle Eastern issues in general and the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories in particular, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

"Israel is pursuing an aggressive

and expansionist policy in the region clearly manifested in its drive to evict Arab inhabitants from their own homeland and to annex their lands and establish settlements," Petra quoted Prince Hassan as telling the delegation.

"Israel," Prince Hassan added, "is quickly utilising the time element by continuously consolidating its occupation of Arab territory and persistently foiling

all efforts aimed at establishing peace."

The American delegation arrived in Amman Saturday evening for a week-long visit to Jordan. Its visit to Jordan is part of a programme aimed at improving understanding between Jordanians and Americans and bolstering their cooperation in economic, cultural and social fields, Petra said.

Qadhafi challenges reports of buildup

NEW YORK (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has denied his troops were massed on Sudan's border and said he wanted the U.N. Security Council to inspect the area to prove it.

"I want the Security Council... it can come to this area and to see this short distance between Libya and Sudan," Col. Qadhafi told NBC Television in an interview in Tripoli on Saturday.

"It can see there are no Libyan troops at all and no Libyan bases in this area," he said.

He did not say whether Libya had made a formal request to the Security Council to send observers, but added:

"I think there is wrong information — a misunderstanding, because Egypt has stationed its aircraft on the border of Sudan, not Libya."

Sudan has accused Libya of massing troops, armour and aircraft near its border and charged Col. Qadhafi with plotting against the government in Khartoum.

During the interview, Col. Qadhafi produced a chart he said recorded the movements of aircraft from the U.S. carrier Nimitz near the Gulf of Sidra which Libya claims as its territorial waters.

Marks purporting to show flights by U.S. navy planes came right up to a line representing the limit of Libya's territorial claim but did not cross it.

Col. Qadhafi also showed a chart he said listed the movements of U.S. AWACS surveillance planes in Egyptian airspace bordering Libya.

Libya complains against U.S. 'threats, provocations'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Libya, reserving the right to request a meeting of the Security Council, has complained to the United Nations over what it called United States "military threats and provocations."

In a letter Saturday to Security Council President Oleg Troyanovsky of the Soviet Union, Libyan U.N. Representative Ali Treiki also spoke of his country's right to take steps if necessary to defend its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

U.S. officials said last week four AWACS early-warning radar planes had been sent to Egypt amid reports of a Libyan military buildup near its border with Sudan.

They also said the U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz was on a routine patrol in the Eastern Mediterranean off Libya, but that this was not linked directly to any Libyan threat.

Mr. Treiki cited the dispatch of the AWACS and the Nimitz's movements in his letter. He said the "continued flying of U.S. reconnaissance and jamming planes over our borders" created a dangerous situation and disrupted domestic civil communications.

The U.S. Sixth Fleet's presence near the Libyan coast could lead to a grave situation, he said, adding that it posed a threat to international as well as regional peace.

Sharon retains place in Lebanon negotiations

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli cabinet Sunday reinstated former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon as a member of the ministerial sub-committee coordinating Israel's position in negotiations with Lebanon, a government spokesman said.

Mr. Sharon was forced to leave the Defence Ministry last week after a judicial inquiry into the Beirut massacre recommended his resignation. But he has remained in the cabinet as minister without portfolio.

The inquiry blamed Mr. Sharon for a major part of Israel's indirect responsibility for the massacre last September, in which the Israelis say, Lebanese Falangists killed hundreds of Palestinians.

The spokesman said Prime Minister Menachem Begin proposed

that Mr. Sharon, who served on the five-man committee in his capacity as defence minister, should remain a member. The cabinet also appointed him a member of the ministerial defence committee, the proceedings of which are kept secret.

Communications Minister Mordecai Zippori, a frequent critic of Mr. Sharon, voted against his reappointment to the committee. Several other ministers abstained.

Mr. Begin tabled the proposal because he felt that Mr. Sharon had much to offer the two committees, a senior official said.

It is not clear what Mr. Sharon's ministerial duties will be. The official said Mr. Begin has not discussed the matter with him and may not do so for several weeks.

Probe into EPA may damage Reagan

WASHINGTON (R) — A clash between the White House and Congress over a White House refusal to release some documents appears to have been averted, but a congressional investigation into a toxic waste cleanup programme could still prove damaging to President Reagan.

Probes by five congressional committees into allegations of misconduct at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had threatened to escalate into a power struggle between the two branches of government when President Reagan claimed executive privilege over some key documents.

That led to a contempt of Congress citation against Anne Gorsuch, administrator of the EPA, which handles the cleanup programme. One of her aides was fired mysteriously. EPA papers have been shredded, and the FBI has been called in to investigate cover-up charges.

In a compromise worked out on Friday night, Mr. Reagan agreed to allow the committees to review the documents under special conditions to protect their integrity.

Representative Elliott Levitas, a Georgia Democrat and chairman of one of the committees, said the agreement would eliminate the need for enforcement of the contempt citation.

The compromise came after Mr. Reagan and his aides realised withholding the documents would increase the controversy and arouse public suspicion, just as it did for former President Richard Nixon in the Watergate case.

The clash has focused attention on charges that the Reagan administration is trying to weaken laws on clean air and water and to reduce regulation of industrial polluters. It has also been said that EPA officials conspired with industrialists to reduce the liability of firms guilty of pollution hazards.

The controversy originated last December when Mrs. Gorsuch, acting on President Reagan's orders, refused to give congressional investigators case records from an EPA programme charged with policing industrial polluters.

The White House said disclosure of the documents would compromise current enforcement cases and Mr. Reagan asserted a president's traditional "executive privilege" of cloaking vital U.S. government interests in privacy.

Congress rejected his claim and issued a contempt citation against Mrs. Gorsuch, the highest-ranking official ever so cited.

Although the "privilege" doctrine has sometimes been invoked successfully, usually in national security cases, the freshest case in public memory is Mr. Nixon's futile attempt to deny White House tapes to the Watergate special prosecutor.

Mr. Reagan's attempt to get court backing for his stand failed.

'PLO policy should be clear' Sartawi resigns PNC membership

ALGIERS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Issam Sartawi said Sunday he had resigned from the movement's parliament-in-exile at a meeting here because it refused to grant him time to speak.

Mr. Sartawi, who has acted on occasion as a roving PLO ambassador, told reporters: "I have rejected this council. I don't care if it accepts my resignation or not."

The Palestine National Council (PNC), in its first session since the evacuation of PLO forces from Israeli-besieged Beirut last summer, went into closed meetings Sunday after winding up a debate on Middle East peace strategy Saturday night.

PLO sources said Mr. Sartawi, 48, had an angry confrontation with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat Saturday night after PNC Speaker Khaled Al Fuhum failed to find time for him to speak in the hardliner-dominated public debates.

Mr. Sartawi tendered his resignation as a PNC member at the last session in April, 1981, but it was refused.

Recognition of Israel

He said recently he planned to tell the PNC that, by endorsing a Soviet Middle East peace plan in 1981, it had implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist, and should now issue a clear recognition of that country.

The United States has asked the PLO to recognise Israel — a move rejected by all PNC speakers so far — as the price for talking to the organisation.

PNC sources said the PLO leadership believed Mr. Sartawi's views would divide the organisation at a time when it was seeking to rebuild its unity and could provoke hardliners to press for an explicit rejection of them.

Despite the fiery headline rhetoric at the current meeting, Mr. Arafat's aides thought the 355-member PNC would leave the PLO leader some room to manoeuvre in his cautious diplomatic approach to Middle East peace.

They said the PNC seemed likely to tie Mr. Arafat down on some issues, particularly on its refusal to accept President Reagan's call last September for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

Mr. Arafat has so far stopped

short of rejecting the Reagan plan outright, as Israel has done.

PNC 'failures'

A clearly incensed Mr. Sartawi said the PNC had failed to live up to the standards of democracy required of it. "The Palestinian people need a leading body as deep as their tragedy," he said.

He affirmed his support of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people but said Palestinians had a right to know how well or badly their interests were being looked after by the organisation.

In a clear reference to a two-hour speech on Friday by pro-Libyan commando chief Ahmad Jibril, he said it was immoral that the PNC should find time for "those who want to sell the Palestinian people like a flock of sheep to (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi," but could not give him 10 minutes to speak.

'Beirut victory'

He also objected to a series of speeches by others hailing last summer's battle of Beirut, which led to the PLO evacuation of the city, as a victory.

"If that was a victory, then all we need is a series of victories and we will be holding the next PNC meeting in Fiji," he said.

The current PNC session is the first to be held outside an Arab state bordering Israel.

The PNC Sunday morning broke up into eight sub-committees which are expected to meet for at least one full day before presenting draft resolutions to the assembly.

Mr. Arafat, who has yet to defend his policies, is expected to speak just before the PNC votes on the resolutions.

Lebanon talks called off today

TEL AVIV (R) — Bad weather has forced the cancellation of Monday's talks in the resort town of Netanya between Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. negotiators on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Israeli officials said Sunday. In more than two days of heavy rain and snow storms roads were flooded and power lines torn up, particularly in Jerusalem and other high areas.

Arab team's U.K. visit replanned for mid-March

LONDON (R) — Britain said Sunday a much-postponed visit to London by an Arab League mission promoting a Middle East peace plan was being rescheduled for mid-March.

Specific dates had not been fixed, a Foreign Office spokesman said. King Hassan of Morocco would lead the mission, he added.

The visit has been delayed because Britain objected to a delegate of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) being in the mission. The spokesman said Foreign Secretary Francis Pym had made clear that Britain would still not receive a PLO representative.

But official sources said a Palestinian figure in sympathy with the PLO might participate.

The Moroccan news agency MAP said that in Rabat Sunday Foreign Minister Mohammed Boucetta and British Ambassador John Cambridge discussed the mission's trip to London to confer with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The visit was last scheduled for Feb. 7 and 8 but was called off at Morocco's request for domestic reasons which were not explained. On three previous occasions it was postponed because of Mrs. Thatcher's objections to the inclusion of a PLO representative.

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FEATURES

Anorexia Nervosa: Illness that must be taken seriously

By Ronald Clarke

LOS ANGELES (R) — In the film world Anorexia Nervosa is known as "star's disease," the slavish devotion to the cameras and the public that turns would-be actresses into 80-pound (36 kilogram) walking skeletons.

"It all begins with a desire to be thin. Cultural pressures are on women in this image-conscious, weight-conscious city to be thin," Dr. Joel Yager, director of an eating-disorder clinic in Los Angeles, said.

His patients at his clinic, part of the University of California in Los Angeles, include not only actresses, but fashion models, dancers and gymnasts.

Anorexia Nervosa turns dieting into a tragic obsession, when even emaciated victims feel they must lose more weight.

The latest victim to be revealed

is singer Karen Carpenter, of the brother-and-sister singing duo the Carpenters, who died in Los Angeles of an apparent heart attack.

Her personal manager, Jerry Weintraub, said Miss Carpenter, whose soft, clear voice helped sell more than \$60 million worth of records, including "We've Only Just Begun" and "Close to You" had been treated for Anorexia Nervosa for the past 18 months.

Dr. Yager said cardiac arrest was a major cause of death of people who have suffered from Anorexia Nervosa.

Although the illness is known in Hollywood as "star's disease," doctors said "starlets' disease" would be a more accurate description.

Teen-aged girls and women under 24 are the most frequent patients, often actresses and dancers seeking attention in the world of "cattle calls" — mass auditions

for bit parts.

Cherry Boone O'Neill, eldest of the four daughters of singer Pat Boone, described in a book on her battle with Anorexia pills and laxatives.

Miss O'Neill, 28, who said she was pronounced cured in 1979 after starting to diet as a teenager, said her weight had at one time dropped to 36 kilograms.

She said of Miss Carpenter: "She will not have died in vain if people start taking Anorexia Nervosa seriously now."

"Just like alcoholics, there isn't a whole lot you can do for a sufferer unless they accept that they need help."

Debby Boone, singing daughter of the family, said her sister, who lives at Bothell, Washington, 24 kilometers north of Seattle, had done two things to help become cured.

"She went to a Christian psy-

chologist and moved away from Los Angeles so she could reverse her bad eating habits," Miss Boone said.

"Ten years ago, Anorexia Nervosa was a rich women's disease," he said. "Patients came from Beverly Hills and other affluent sections of the city."

"But now middle class women, also want to be thin. The illness is spreading to them."

Doctors say the typical victim of Anorexia Nervosa in Los Angeles is a young, successful, ambitious and attractive woman.

Dr. Yager said studies had shown between five and 10 per cent of sufferers would be dead within five to 10 years.

"The heart becomes very inefficient under conditions of Anorexia Nervosa," Dr. Yager said.

"Between 30 and 50 per cent of the sufferers will eventually be-

come members of the binge-and-purge syndrome," he added. "These are the people who eat a lot and then vomit."

"They gain weight, but they are still abusing their bodies," he said. Doctors said in long-term cases, people began "autodigesting," in which the body began feeding on its protein store.

Friends said they felt Miss Carpenter had overcome the effects of Anorexia Nervosa when she died.

Musician Herb Alpert, of the Tijuana Brass Sound, who had helped Karen and Richard Carpenter in their careers, said they were preparing for another album and were talking of a concert tour when she died.

"She was on the upside," he said. "That is what made the whole thing so tragic."

Kangaroo hunters 'must shoot straight'

By Brian Timms

Reuter

SYDNEY — Australian kangaroo hunters have been told for the first time that if they do not shoot straight and avoid causing suffering, they could go to jail.

The warnings are being issued along with hunting licences in the state of Queensland as another controversial kangaroo hunting season gets under way.

Three million kangaroos have been officially allocated for slaughter throughout Australia this year, despite warnings that they could become extinct.

The federal government disagrees with conservationists on this, pointing out that there are at least 35 million kangaroos, more than double the human population.

Professional hunters and farmers given licences to kill usually operate at night, pin-pointing victims with a beam of light from a truck.

Australia exported 1.8 million kilograms of kangaroo meat last year, most as pet food but some for human consumption in Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa and Switzerland.

A government official said the meat is rich, has a high protein content and is subject to stringent hygiene control.

Professor Peter Singer, chairman of the Australian Federation of Animal Societies, described the licence to kill policy as an uncontrolled slaughter.

"How can there be such a programme when the numbers of kangaroos killed illegally is equal to the legal kill and for all we know may greatly exceed it," he said.

Farmers must obtain a state licence to kill kangaroos ravaging their crops. Professional hunters also need a licence and must pay about 15 cents (14 U.S.) each for small plastic tags which they have to attach to every carcass sold to wholesalers.

The professionals have every reason to heed the "shoot straight" warning.

The state of Victoria has banned commercial killing and now grants licences only to farmers suffering bad crop damage. It hopes that other states will follow.

The current drought, the worst this century, has also killed off many kangaroos. A reduced population is expected when the official count is taken in June, though wildlife department officials said breeding would soon restore the numbers.

In some parts, kangaroos outnumber sheep four to one.

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HOME NEWS

Swiss delegation holds talks with NCC committees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The visiting Swiss economic delegation called at the National Consultative Council (NCC) Sunday and held talks with the NCC's financial and economic committees on financial and trade relations between the two countries.

During the meeting the Swiss delegation said it wanted to promote trade between the two and offered to increase Switzerland's imports of Jordanian products. The delegation members also promised to urge their government to offer Jordanian capital and technical aid to expand bilateral cooperation in tourism and technical affairs and to launch joint industrial ventures.

The Swiss delegation, led by the Under Secretary for International Economic Affairs at the Federal Ministry of Economy, Ambassador Benedict von Tscherner, are scheduled to arrive in Aqaba Monday for a visit to the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company and the port of Aqaba, taking in a visit to Petra on the way. The delegation, which arrived in Amman Saturday, will leave for Syria Tuesday.

The delegation will arrive on a one day visit to Amman on the invitation of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), and will then leave for Lebanon.

While in Jordan, the delegation will visit the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan and may possibly meet members of the Jordanian cabinet. The delegation will come to Jordan across the King Hussein Bridge at the end of their visit to the West Bank.

Swedish parliamentary team to visit Amman

By a staff reporter

AMMAN — A Swedish Parliamentary delegation will arrive in Amman Tuesday, an official at the Swedish Embassy in Amman said Sunday.

The Swedish delegation will include two members of parliament, Mr. Svensson and Mr. Jädestig, who are members of the Christian group within the Social Democratic Party referred to as the Brotherhood Movement.

The third member of the delegation is Mr. Billinger who is the editor-in-chief of a Swedish magazine published by the Brotherhood Movement.

The delegation will arrive on a one day visit to Amman on the invitation of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), and will then leave for Lebanon.

While in Jordan, the delegation will visit the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan and may possibly meet members of the Jordanian cabinet. The delegation will come to Jordan across the King Hussein Bridge at the end of their visit to the West Bank.



The Swiss economic delegation meets with members of the NCC's finance committee Sunday (Petra photo)

Military court imposes big sentences on four convicted of violent robberies

AMMAN (Petra) — Four Jordanians have received sentences ranging from between 10 and 20 years imprisonment with hard labour for acts of robbery and attempts of murder from the military court.

The sentences, which were endorsed Sunday by the Military Governor, were passed on Harbi Al Barikha, who will be jailed for 15 years, and Musa Yusuf, who will receive 20 years, for conspiring to commit murder and to

steal the property of their victims. They were also found guilty of attempting a murder and possessing unlicensed weapons. Omar Shahin will be jailed for 10 years and Saleh Hamdan for 15 years for attempted murder and acts of robbery.

According to a military court statement, the four had last year committed several acts of burglary in houses in the district of the Orthodox Club, Al Rashid, Al Shm-eisani and Al Jabal Al Akhdar.

They were also said to have fired at a woman and injured her as she was shouting for help.

Also it was announced that the following persons will be jailed for seven years with hard labour for being members of an armed gang that committed acts of armed robbery on petrol stations in Zarqa: Qasem, Falah, Adnan, Salameh, Mohammad, Rizk, Abdul Fattah, Hassan, Mohammad Ahmad Jabayer and Omar Hassan Saleh.

A310 Airbus makes demonstration flight from Amman Airport Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — A demonstration flight of the A310 Airbus took off from Amman Airport Sunday to fly to Aqaba and back but without landing at Aqaba Airport.

The A310, the latest aircraft to be produced by the Airbus Industrie, arrived in Amman Friday for the course of a 17-day demonstration tour of the Middle East and the Far East.

The manufacturers' aim during the demonstrations is to promote the sales of the new aircraft in the nine countries the aircraft is scheduled to visit.

In addition to Jordan, the aircraft will also fly to North Yemen, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, South Korea and Japan.

Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, is considered a possible customer as it is a fast growing airline with a fleet at present consisting of only Boeing and TriStar aircrafts. Supervising the take off and landing from Amman was Alia's Chairman of the Board of Directors and President Ali Ghandour.

Before the flight the aircraft's crew briefed the passengers on the A310's efficiency and qualities.

Aboard the twin-engine aircraft was the Civil Aviation Authority director, Commander of the Jordanian Air Force, director of Arab Wings, the Ministry of Information Under-Secretary, several European ambassadors to Jordan and a number of local and foreign journalists.

Accompanying the A310 to Amman were top Airbus Industrie officials led by its President Bernard Lathiere and Executive Vice-President Roger B'etille.

Adverse weather conditions to go on for next 24 hours

By Affah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The weatherman says the snow storm which has hit Jordan will not improve in the next 24 hours, and hence the prevailing weather conditions will remain the same.

The depression positioned over northern Cyprus is still affecting Jordan, an official from the meteorological department said Sunday.

The depression, he added, contains a cold air mass which means that it will be cold, cloudy and rainy with snow falls on hilly areas. Surface wind will be westerly and fresh, and the temperature will be a maximum of 5°C, and a minimum of 0°C, he said.

The Amman Governor, Yahya Al Mosali, said that the departments of Public Security, Civil Defence, and Public Works, as well as the Amman Municipality and the armed forces have cooperated together to clear blocked roads and to help people stranded by the blizzards.

He pointed out that no major car accidents have occurred, but that minor ones had taken place due to adverse road conditions.

Mr. Al Mosali said that traffic

problems during the past two days had occurred because of drivers' disregard for even the most basic traffic regulation.

An official from the Public Security Department said that cars overloading had in particular exacerbated traffic jams and the smooth flow of traffic. Electric cables had also been damaged by stormy winds, an official from the Electric Power Company said Sunday. He added that the company were handling this matter in cooperation with the Department of Civil Defence.

The company warned people not to touch any damaged wires and urged the public to call the Civil Defence if they should discover cables in a dangerous state.

The impact of the weather in general on agriculture in Jordan since last November has been very positive, according to Agriculture Under-Secretary Salem Al Lawzi. He told the Jordan Times that the

large amounts of rainwater which has fallen will ensure a very good agricultural output similar to that of 1979-80.

Dr. Lawzi said that the snow and rain would greatly increase underground water which is used through artesian wells and springs. "The snow in particular is absorbed gradually by the soil enabling the water to reach deep into the ground," Dr. Lawzi added.

He said that the water, which flows to the artificial lake behind the King Talal Dam near Jerash, will certainly raise the level of water stored there for irrigation in the dry season. The rain, which has fallen in Jordan, is especially important for cereals crops like wheat and barley while late rains will be beneficial to summer crops and the various kinds of vegetables. Dr. Lawzi explained.

He added that the rain is also very important to pasture land and therefore is of benefit to animals and livestock. Dr. Lawzi called on all farmers to plant summer crops and vegetables as the soil is now fully saturated with water.

It was announced by the Ministry of Education and the President of the University of Jordan, intermediate colleges and all schools will be closed Monday.

Arab World, Interpol to coordinate moves against drug smuggling

AMMAN (J.T.) — The secretary-general of the International Arab Organisation for Social Defence against Crime, Brig. Yusef Gharaibeh, returned to Amman Saturday after attending the U.N. narcotics committee meetings in Geneva.

During his two-week stay in Geneva, Brig. Gharaibeh said he met Interpol officials to study ways of bolstering cooperation between the Arab police and Interpol in combating the smuggling and use of narcotics. He also met the U.N. narcotics division head and discussed the prospect of sending Arab police officers on specialised criminal investigation courses with special emphasis on the use of laboratory techniques.

Brig. Gharaibeh said that he had invited U.N. narcotics experts to visit the Arab World to help it promote its narcotics bureau.

According to Brig. Gharaibeh, representatives of 30 nations took part in the committee meetings and 37 other countries sent observers.

The International Arab Organisation for Social Defence against Crime was established by the Arab League in 1965 to study the causes of crime and ways of punishing and rehabilitating the criminals. The Amman-based organisation consists of three bureaux: International Arab Bureau for Narcotics, International Arab Bureau for Prevention of Crime and International Arab Bureau of Criminal Police.

Transport Ministry sets new bus fares

AMMAN (Petra) — A statement issued by the Minister of Transport's office Sunday fixed the bus fares in 10 districts of Amman at 50 fils. These districts are: Al Wahdat, Jabal Amman, Jabal Luweibdeh, Al Hussein camp, Jabal Hussein, Jabal Nuzhu, Jabal Qusur, Jabal Marrikh, Jabal Naif and Ashrafieh.

The statement also fixed the bus fare rate for three suburbs at 100 fils. These are Customs, Abu Alanda and the Finance Employees Housing Estate. The fares will be enforced from March 1. The statement said.

Hayes' wild, abstract watercolours contrast to his gentler pencil portraits

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ranging from very literal, tight drawings to wild almost uncontrolled abstracts in a variety of media, the work of Stephen Hayes, now on show at the American Centre, looks like it has been produced not by one but by several different artists. This young American painter's versatility in fact stems from a desire to find a new way of expressing himself, having grown tired of the pencil portraiture which he concentrated on, almost exclusively, during his studies at Wisconsin University.

The disenchantment with his

pencil, which he wielded with impressive ability, began last year when the artist was living in Cyprus. He discovered that he was gaining little satisfaction from the type of work he was being commissioned to do—a sample of which is the enchanting portrait of the small boy with the orange—so he turned to watercolours (for Hayes a brand new medium) and to oils (with which he is slightly more familiar) in order to catch the essence of the luminous rolling green countryside he saw around him. Moving to Jordan in the Autumn of 1982, where he now teaches art at the Yarmouk University, brought about another

portrait in Hayes' work. Over the last few months his work has become increasingly more abstract, often spontaneous in the extreme, and it seems as if Hayes

ART REVIEW

is now looking for another very different style one in which he is free from the restraints and restrictions imposed by the very literal drawings in pencil.

These latter however, as to be expected since Hayes has spent many years perfecting his technique, remain his best work to date. The off-centre placement of his figures, the way they seem to grow from the bottom of the page makes his portraits more real. He brings them closer to the viewer and we see them as we see other more tangible people—heads and torsos only. (A positive effort is needed to take in unimportant details such as feet and legs). Then with dextrous use of pencil and rubber Hayes catches, even though he only has the black of the lead and the white of the paper at his disposal, the soft hazy lights of lustrous hair, the sheen of skin and

the gleam of eyes through which he conveys his sitter's character. By leaving the background empty and the clothes as outlines he gives his figures further importance. Hayes' small still life objects, drawn in lonely isolation, are also full of light which gives them their depth and solidity.

The artist's more recent pencil drawings, in line with the more carefree looser nature of his later works, are much more sketch-like to the point of almost being cartoons. For his own pleasure, Hayes has illustrated scenes from Raymond Chandler's thriller "Playback", and in these drawings he manages to convey effectively the seedy characters, the sordid events and the subtle wit so characteristic of Chandler's fiction. Clever touches are the tiles on the cafe floor, the clouded glass windows behind which murky figures in tribes lurk and the striking verticality that surrounds the hanging man giving its horror a potent force.

In trying to capture something essentially Jordanian Hayes has used old bills covered with scrawled Arabic numerals in red and blue inks, cut up photographs of the stacked earthenware pottery

along with other brightly coloured pieces of paper in his collages. What he has achieved however is not so much. Jordanian as really appealing. Scattered like abstract collages where the overlapping geometric forms, the squares of canary yellow, the strips of blue dotted with white, form patterns within patterns rich with bold primary colours.

Carefully crafted in a palette of soft sap greens, gentle browns and ochres, Hayes' watercolours depict the open tree clad hills of Cyprus in the familiar and traditional manner of the media. These kinds of paintings have a universal appeal and Hayes' are no exception—everyone gravitating especially to the small paintings of shady trees standing deep in the flower spotted grass. But after further time with his work one comes to realise that his later wilder, more abstract watercolours of Jordan, whose hills are either splattered with watery blues giving the feeling of seeing them through car windows in the driving rain or painted in fierce pinks, purples and blues, are more original, fresh and exciting and therefore ultimately more satisfying.

Although there is still a long way to go with these exuberant and forceful works, they are perhaps the direction Hayes should follow. Serious and dedicated, Hayes is an artist with a great deal of potential and there will be more good and valid art forthcoming from him in the future.

All the work is for sale. The exhibition runs until Feb. 28.

On the occasion of the European Community Spring Festival, under the Patronage of H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal, the Commission of the European Communities hereby announces to all students in Secondary Schools in Jordan an

ESSAY COMPETITION

on the subject of

JORDAN AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE THROUGH THE YEARS

The prize of the competition is a scholarship for two years study at the United World College of the Adriatic in Duino near Trieste, Italy, leading to the International Baccalaureate Diploma. This scholarship includes all educational costs, living costs and one return trip Amman-Trieste.

Conditions:

The competition is open to all students of Jordanian nationality in Secondary Schools in Jordan, being 18 to 19 years of age. The essay should be written in one of the official languages of the European Communities and sent to the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Amman, P.O. Box 926794, before 5 March 1983.

It should be accompanied by a registration form, which is available from the headmaster of each school, and which must be filled in by the student and the headmaster.

The Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Amman

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Saving the world economy

IN 1945, after the end of World War II, Europe lay in ruins. German production was only 33 per cent of pre-war figures, French industrial production was halved. Twenty-two per cent of German housing was but heaps of rubble. Britain was practically bankrupt. Thirty-five years later, West Germany is the strongest economic power in Europe and one of the strongest in the world. Already in the 1950s, the world talked about the German wonder. And it was a wonder not only for West Germany but for the whole of Europe.

What were the underlying reasons for this wonder? European unity? Maybe, but only to some extent. The recipe was for massive economic aid from the U.S., a financial stream which in a record time put the European economy back on its feet—something the patchwork, piecemeal aid earlier contemplated would have never done.

The Marshall plan cured Europe. Today most of the Third World has economies in ruins, not by conventional war but because of a merciless economic war between giants. The small economies lose out because of lack of competitiveness or they become the battleground for others. In many ways in old times, some countries served as "blood banks", either for troops or money. Today, the Third World is, in many cases, the blood bank. At the cost of their own self-sufficiency in, for example, grains, it becomes the greenhouse for the rich world's luxury consumption. Well known examples are pineapple production in Kenya or coffee and cocoa production in countries where scarce land should be used for local staple food for a starving population.

But the economic war has also hurt developing economies in other ways. A heavy dependence on

imported energy quickly erodes the export earnings of many Third World countries. Fluctuations in commodity prices, decided upon by a handful of big companies, jeopardise the economies of the many one-commodity exporting countries. They need help. And as was the case of Europe after World War II they need massive transfers of economic resources. They need it to change a one-commodity export structure, to change a dangerous dependence on imported energy and to shake off the yoke of economic 20th Century colonialism.

The need for effective help for the ailing Third World economy has for many years been discussed within the U.N., the IMF, the World Bank and other fora including the Brandt commission. Until only a short while ago, discussions went without much success due to unwillingness from the big economic powers, including some of those European countries which received Marshall aid. This, however, seems to be changing. The reasons behind the change are not uninteresting, but should not be used as weapons in the debate. And we can congratulate the big economic powers for having finally understood the fact of interdependence in world economy.

As has also been concluded by the Brandt commission, the developing economies need these massive transfers of resources now to save not only their own economies but the world economy as well. The decision taken by the IMF last week to raise its lending capacity is a step in the right direction. We can only hope that the U.S. Congress—which does not seem to see the link to their own economy—realises that the Third World is not Europe, but is equally important for the survival of the whole world economy.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Washington must defend its credibility

The Lebanese-Israeli-American talks have not proved effective yet, and little progress seems to have been made despite U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib's partial participation in the talks. This present situation only proves that Israel is still capable of asserting itself, and that no real American pressure has been exerted on Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, which is an indispensable prerequisite for solving the Palestinian problem. America's present very lenient attitude towards Israel's

adventurism is, it is feared, characteristic of Washington's whole outlook towards the conflict in the region. Israel of course is concerned to enhance this and further to damage U.S. credibility so that any chance of implementing the proposed Reagan peace plan will disappear.

It is in turn in the U.S.'s interest to defend its credibility; and the first step towards that starts in Lebanon, which could still open the way for a just and comprehensive peace in the whole region.

Al Dustour: Yugoslavia, Jordan find common ground on Mideast

The friendly relations between Jordan and Yugoslavia made the talks between His Majesty King Hussein and the Yugoslav leaders exceptionally constructive. The two sides expressed their deep concern over the dangerous situation in the Middle East, and the threat to world peace this situation poses.

The Palestinian problem and the Iran-Iraq war inevitably were at the centre of these talks. The necessity of putting an end to Israel's aggressive policies was reiterated by the Yugoslav side, an

attitude characteristic of the Yugoslav approach to the Middle East conflict. Israel's expansionist policies were invariably condemned by the late President Tito, and a similar stand has been stressed by the present Yugoslav leadership.

The Jordanian and Yugoslav sides in the talks stressed the need to end the Iran-Iraq war, the continuance of which is in nobody's interest except those colonial and neo-colonial world forces who have always acted against the interests of the developing nations.

Sawt Al Shaab: Democratic debate characterises PNC debates

The Palestine National Council (PNC) debate reflects the democratic nature of the decision-making process operated by the representatives of the Palestinian people. Regardless of the fact that Fatah movement has a majority in the PNC that enables the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to enforce his moderate line, the hardliners and rejectionist in the PNC have still had their chance to express their views and present their romantic attitudes.

The moderates in the PNC are obviously winning the day, and the first casualty at the Council, in the

light of the Lebanon experience, has been the rejectionist "Steadfastness and Confrontation Front", which supported the Palestinians in words rather than deeds, as the PNC spokesman pointed out. The great concern for the occupied Arab territories and their people has been abundantly expressed by members of the PNC. The majority of the representatives of the Palestinian people mean to safeguard an independent Palestinian decision-making mechanism, capable of seizing all political opportunities that avail themselves both at the Arab and international levels.

Deployment plans on schedule

By Robert Trautman
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — Despite development problems, deployment plans are still on schedule for the Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles, the U.S. weapons at the centre of the Geneva talks on reducing medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. U.S. officials say.

The first Pershings are due to be positioned in West Germany in December and the first Cruise missiles in Britain and Italy at about the same time.

The first Pershing test flight failed last July and the second last November was only a partial success. A third, last month, went well and another last week appeared normal, although a full assessment has not yet been made.

The Cruise missile passed its first six tests but failed the seventh. President Reagan has offered to cancel the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) plan to deploy 572 Pershings and Cruises in western Europe if the Soviet Union agrees to dismantle some 600 medium-range SS-20s.

At a meeting in Geneva, the Soviet Union, in a counter offer, the Soviet Union, has said it would cut its missile force aimed at Western Europe to 162, the number of missiles in the independent British and French forces, if NATO dropped its plans

to deploy the 108 Pershings and 464 Cruises.

This in turn was rejected by the Reagan administration. Some military experts say cutting back Pershing deployment may be a key to any agreement because, of the two U.S. missiles, the Pershing is the one Moscow fears more.

But the Pershing is also the missile which has had the most serious problems — so severe, in fact, that Congress last year withheld production funds until the troubles were ironed out. The Pershing-2's range of 1,700 km is twice that of the Pershing-1, which is already based in West Germany, and it is 10 times more accurate. With that range and accuracy, it would give U.S. forces the ability to hit targets inside the Soviet Union within minutes of launching in West Germany, where all 108 are to be deployed.

But the missile has had problems almost from 1972 when new guidance systems were devised to improve the accuracy of the old Pershing-1.

Motor failure

One of the troubles with Pershing was rocket motor failure. In the Pershing's first test flight from Cape Canaveral, Florida, last July 22, the motor leaked fuel and the missile had to be exploded shortly after launching. The second test

flight, at the White Sands missile range in New Mexico, was only a partial success because the missile's guidance system failed to meet all the goals set for it.

After the successful test flight on January 21 at Cape Canaveral, U.S. army officials reiterated their conviction that Pershing deployment was on schedule and deployment would go ahead as planned.

Compared with the Pershing, the Cruise missile is a success story.

The Cruise has range of 2,500 km but travels at the relatively slow speed of about 800 kms an hour compared with the Pershing's supersonic speed. And although the Cruise can skim as low as several metres from the ground and fly under present Soviet radar, Moscow is developing new defences which could make the U.S. missile vulnerable, military analysts say.

Development of the Cruise went ahead without setbacks until last December 17 when the missile crashed some 30 seconds after launching during a test at the Utah test and training range. Officials are still investigating the failure but are confident it will not delay deployment.

A total of 96 Cruise will be placed in West Germany and the others in Britain (160), Italy (112), and Belgium and the Netherlands (48 each).

DE FACTONOMICS

By T.A. Jaber

Lending to the heavily indebted

The issue of external debt for the Third World has come in the last six months to the forefront of the concerns of political and financial leaders in both developed and developing countries. Never before in history has the threat to the financial and banking systems been so widespread and frightening except perhaps in the great depression of the 1930s.

The external debt crisis has emerged in the seventies as an outcome of policies of about 25 developing countries to borrow from the commercial banks and the eagerness of those banks to increase their profits through lending with little attention to the risks involved. Thus, developing countries borrowed from commercial banks alone, in addition to official loans from developed countries and regional and international institutions, more than \$400 billion, of which 35 per cent were lent by banks in the United States.

The OPEC countries realised substantial surpluses in their current accounts which were deposited in banks in the U.S. and Western Europe. The

growth in the developing countries exports was promising which meant that these countries would be able to repay their debts without much difficulty.

However, economic recession which burdened the world economy over the last three years reduced international trade including exports of the indebted countries. Thus, countries like Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Yugoslavia and others were not able even to service their foreign debts. If the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the major industrialised countries did not intervene, many indebted countries would have been declared bankrupt which would threaten the world with a disastrous banking and financial crisis.

What did the IMF do? It managed additional debts to the needy developing countries hoping that over a transitional period of two to three years from now, more favourable economic conditions will enhance their capacity to repay their debts. The IMF arranged last month a package loan to bail out Mexico of \$3.9 billion.

In addition, commercial banks were pressed to lend \$5 billion and industrial countries provided export credit of \$2 billion. This brought external debts of Mexico to a total of close to \$100 billion.

Other similar arrangements are being worked out by the IMF. Along with these loans, the IMF requires certain painful changes in the economic policies of the indebted countries. They have to slow their economic growth, dampen domestic demand, cut back subsidies, depreciate their exchange rates and make better use of the possible increased demand for their exports.

Resources of the IMF have been augmented this month by over 47 per cent, to bring them to a total \$98.5 billion. This significant increase was raised more than ten years ago by the Third World and reiterated by the Brandt Commission in 1980. It enhances the role of the IMF to transfer short and medium term resources to those developing countries facing balance of payments deficits. The IMF will be able to become closer to the concept of an international central bank

which was conceived forty years by Lord Keynes.

More resources are gathered to rescue the world economy. The rich industrial countries have provided \$19 billion under the title "General Agreements to Borrow" while Saudi Arabia contributed \$15 billion.

While the enhanced role of the IMF in international finance and debt management should be welcomed as well as the increased contributions of the rich countries, serious questions on the possible outcomes of the foreign debt problem have yet to be settled. Is there a way to guide, if not control, the credit policies of thousands of commercial banks to avoid excessive lending to certain developing countries? What did the heavily indebted countries do with the huge sums they had borrowed? What if these countries failed to repay their increased debts in spite of the recent rescue arrangements?

These and other questions have to be taken into considerations while running the risk of lending more to the heavily indebted countries.

New boost in international funds

By John Rogers
 Reuter

LONDON — A new boost in international funds for debt-ridden countries has heartened development experts concerned about the Third World's economic plight.

But many saw the action by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), designed to help richer developing countries burdened by big debts which threaten to cripple exposed Western banks, as "too little, too late."

It was not enough to tackle the morass of debt, low commodity prices and stagnant or negative growth facing the bulk of poor Asian, African and Latin American countries as a result of the world recession, they argued.

In Washington last weekend, the IMF's policy-making committee approved a three-point plan to lift the Fund's lending resources to \$99 billion from next year, including a 47.5 per cent increase in members' contributions, called quotas.

Bitter argument was expected in industrial countries, reeling from the recession but required to contribute most to the fund, as governments started seeking legislative approval for the higher quotas this week.

In Washington, key congressmen have said they do not like raising U.S. contributions at a time when nearly 12 million Americans are unemployed. But in a parallel debate, development experts are striving to convince politicians that policy changes and a bigger injection of resources to help the Third World will, in turn,

help the West out of the recession.

The "development lobby" got fresh ammunition last week with publication of a new report by an influential international commission led by former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt.

Lobbyists say more sweeping action is needed to help poor nations — and so, by reviving trade, to expand export markets and help the staggering industrial economies. In finance, they want a doubling of IMF quotas and expansion of its reserve assets, called Special Drawing Rights, to benefit developing nations.

More than 70 of them have serious debt burdens, albeit less chronic than those of industrialising giants like Mexico, Argentina and Brazil. Much more aid should go to the poorest nations, they argued, with a big boost in funds for easy terms loans by the World Bank, International Development Association (IDA).

Policy of disaster

They want action by governments to stimulate the world economy and remove barriers to Third World products.

Of special concern, they say, is the slump of recent years in commodity prices, which cost developing countries a loss in export earnings of \$21 billion from 1980 to 1982, according to United Nations figures.

"Underdeveloping the Third World through trade and then lending it back some of the money on terms which further impoverish the poor in the Third World is a policy of disaster," says John Tanner of the World Dev-

elopment Movement, Britain's main Third World pressure group.

Adding its prestige to these arguments, the Brandt commission called for emergency action on finance, trade, aid, food and energy to avert a world economic collapse, followed by long-term thorough reform of the world financial system.

Echoing opposition in the U.S., Britain and other industrial countries to preoccupation with the war on inflation, the Commission's report accused governments of "excessive concentration on monetary control, often accompanied by perverse fiscal policies."

Brandt commissioners pride themselves on having alerted world opinion, in their first report in 1980, to the "mutual dependence of the industrial 'North' and developing 'South'". The new report was widely hailed as reinforcing the message and proposing pragmatic measures.

"What is lacking is the will among governments to see these things are done when they ought to be done," said former British Prime Minister Edward Heath, a Commission member. "Too little, too late is the motto."

The Brandt commission wanted IMF quotas doubled at least. Although British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Sir Geoffrey Howe said the increase agreed in Washington represented "what is necessary, desirable and feasible," Mr. Heath said it was inadequate.

"But we ought to be glad they are at least moving," he told Reuters.

The world economic crisis and development issues will be on the agenda of several international conferences this year, and development experts hope they will prompt concerted action to get the world economy moving.

At the Non-aligned summit in New Delhi next month, delegates from 97 countries, nearly all developing, will discuss ways off reviving the "North-South dialogue" on trade, aid and financial reform, stalled by the North's preoccupation with the recession.

The seven leading industrial countries will review the economic crisis at their annual summit in the U.S. in May, before a meeting in Belgrade in June of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Pressure could also build up for another special summit to give political impetus to the dialogue, although the first, in 1981 at Cancun, Mexico, was unanimously viewed as disappointing.

In the meantime, there is scope for improving the climate. The Brandt Commission advised developing nations to use persuasion, rather than strident confrontation, in dealing with the North, and to concentrate on specific proposals. Commissioners want to end the view in industrial countries that a stalemate in North-South negotiations, in which the Third World's case is stalled, is a good outcome.

"There is no place for a zero option in the dialogue for world recovery," says Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal, borrowing the term for the U.S. position in nuclear arms control talks in Geneva.

Lesotho now again thrust to the front

By Rodney Pinder
 Reuter

MASERU — A sabotage raid on fuel facilities has thrust the remote mountain Kingdom of Lesotho once again to the front in the dangerous world of southern African politics. It is a prominent position that belies Lesotho's physical stature as one of the world's smaller nations, of about 30,000 square kilometres, the same size as Belgium.

But little Lesotho is gaining the reputation of being the mouse that roars in Southern Africa. The impoverished enclave of 1.2 million people, many of them hardy mountain horsemen, lies deep inside South Africa — the farthest-flung outpost of independent black Africa. It is surrounded by the white-ruled republic and almost completely dependent on it for survival.

Yet the more it suffers, the fiercer its oratory becomes. Lesotho has blamed rebels of the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA), which it says is backed by South Africa, for the destruction of a fuel depot in Maseru and a resulting fire at a neighbouring steel factory.

Pretoria rejects charges that it is allowing LLA rebels to operate with impunity from South African soil. But Radio Lesotho said a helicopter had been seen dropping bombs during last Sunday's raid.

A government spokesman accused South Africa of aiming at economic targets in Lesotho "as it is doing in Angola and Mozambique" — the major hotbeds of sub-Saharan Africa.

Diminutive Lesotho's blunt speaking beneath the nose of South Africa, the biggest military and economic power on the continent south of Egypt, frequently amazes the small diplomatic community in Maseru. One Western envoy said before the latest attack that Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's government should tone down its rhetoric and make friends with its giant neighbour.

"Lesotho just suffered its first major invasion by the Boers in 100 years, and it may be setting itself up for another," he said after a devastating attack on the capital by South African commandos last December.

Another had admiration for Maseru's fiery approach. "The government has principles and refuses to be bullied," he said.

Pretoria said the dead in the December attack were members of the African National Congress (ANC), which is pledged to overthrow white rule in the republic.

Maseru said South African exiles here were not allowed to engage in military activities and that 12 of the victims were its own innocent citizens. It was the first time South African troops had attacked since 1867 when forces from the Orange Free State overran most of the kingdom, forcing King Moshoeshoe the great, the great-great-grandfather of the present monarch, to seek refuge within the British empire. Lesotho became a British territory until independence in 1966.

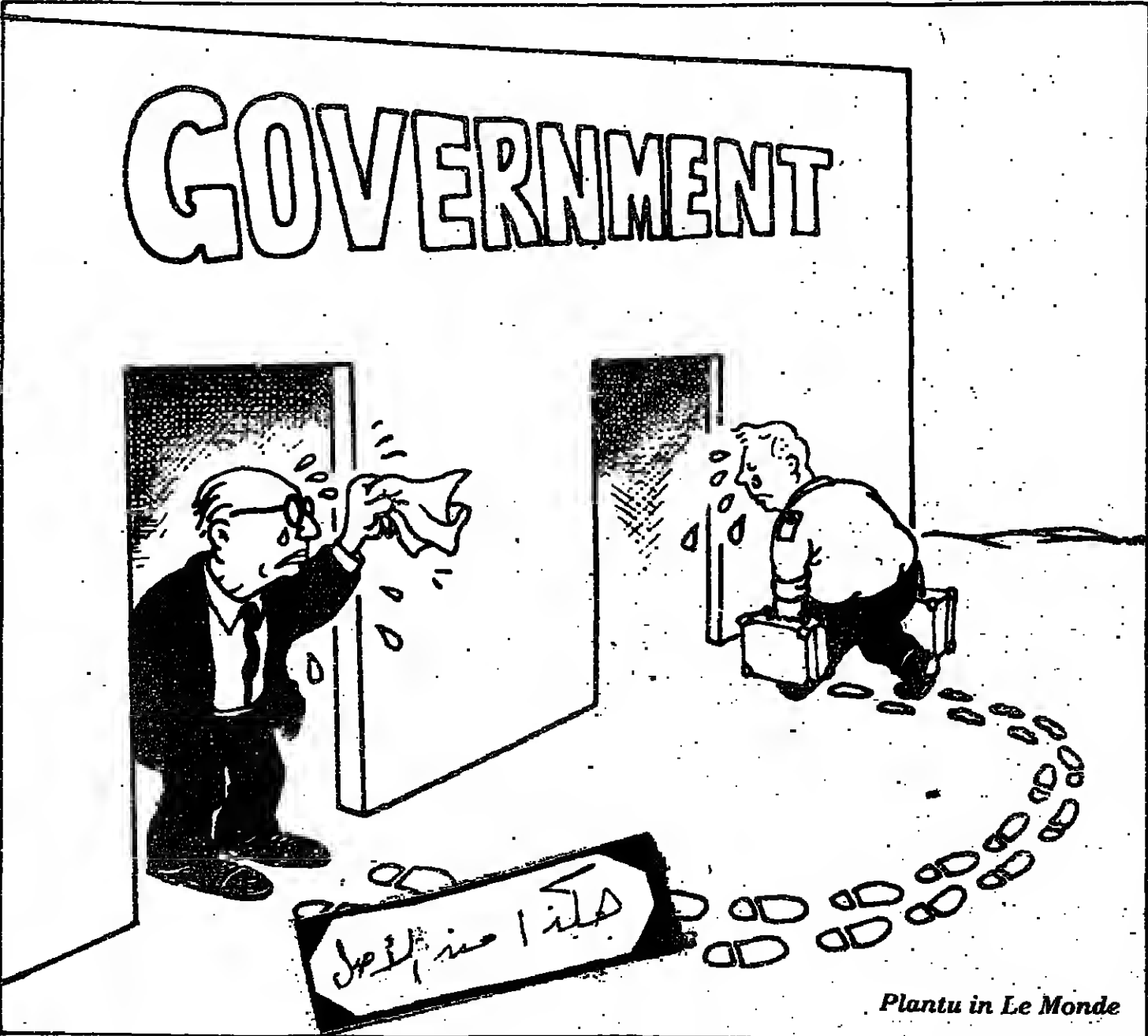
Even before the December attack, relations between Lesotho and the republic were deteriorating, diplomats said. Chief Jonathan has publicly and frequently accused South Africa of supporting the Lesotho Liberation Army against him.

Diplomats say the LLA operates from bases inside South Africa — the border is only two kilometres away — and that the republic at the very least turns a blind eye to LLA activities, which range from haphazard mortar attacks to bombings and assassinations.

Pretoria counters that Lesotho is looking for scapegoats. Whatever the explanation, the anti-South African tone of public statements in Maseru has become increasingly strident. Chief Jonathan told representatives of 61 nations and international aid agencies at a conference here last month that "the Boers" were conducting a regional campaign of atrocities and destabilisation against their independent black neighbours. He described Lesotho as Pretoria's unwilling hostage.

The language, from conservative Lesotho, astonished many at the conference. It echoed that frequently emanating from the region's radical Socialist states of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, who are not as vulnerable to South Africa as is Lesotho. Lesotho is virtually an extension of the African economy. Its shops and businesses are South African branches.

A customs union between the countries provides 70 per cent of government revenue. About half the country's male workers labour in South African mines and they remit home accounts for nearly half Lesotho's gross national product.



ECONOMY

'The war begins', says senior OPEC official

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabian and its Gulf allies consulted on the crisis in the world oil industry Sunday as OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) prepared for a pricing war following the 15 per cent price cut announced by Nigeria, a key member of the organisation.

Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers, holding a second day of talks in Riyadh, focused on the new threat to OPEC posed by the overnight Nigerian cut of \$5.50 a barrel, officials said.

"The war begins. It is very dangerous," a senior OPEC official in the Gulf said.

Industry analysts described the Nigerian cut as the first major downward break in OPEC prices since the group took control of the market a decade ago.

Nigeria, in the first public breach of OPEC pricing solidarity said it had cut its crude price to \$30 a barrel to match new levels proposed for North Sea oil.

Industry sources in Lagos said that if Saudi Arabia or other exporters tried to make their oils competitive, Nigerian prices would fall again.

Gulf oil analysts said Saudi Arabia now held the key to world prices but faced an agonising decision over whether to reduce its tariffs, and if so by how much.

The kingdom has seen its production slip to what industry experts Sunday estimated as under four million barrels daily from a 1979 peak of about 10 million.

It has tried to defend the official OPEC reference price of \$34 a barrel.

The analysts said a reduction in price of what until now was a widely expected \$4 a barrel might not significantly revive demand for Saudi crude.

A larger cut would mean a risk of retaliation by Nigeria and a full-scale price war, they said.

Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani has argued that a modest cut in price would revive demand.

The analysts however said a significant reduction might cause world financial havoc and a spate of bankruptcies among banks and oil companies.

The kingdom's fellow members of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman and Bahrain — are expected to go along with any Saudi move.

OPEC's crisis, which threatens the future of the 23-year-old exporter group, stems from an unexpectedly severe drop in demand for its crude.

Some members have given discounts on official prices to grab more of the shrunken market.

Nigerian presidential oil adviser Mr. Yahaya Dikko said Saturday

night that a \$3 a barrel price cut announced last week by Britain meant there was no longer a basis for a price structure based on a \$34 reference level.

The analysts said it was impossible to forecast which way Saudi Arabia would turn.

"You can be sure the State Department in Washington and other foreign ministries round the world are in constant contact with Riyadh," one well-informed American oilman said.

The senior OPEC sources said no date had yet been set for a meeting of Gulf oil ministers to coordinate any price move or for an emergency OPEC conference.

Saudi Arabia has in the past been meticulous about making price changes only in the OPEC forum, but the analysts said that now anything was possible.

Meanwhile, bankers in Bahrain said they expected gold prices would rise when world financial markets reopened Monday amid growing apprehension over the stability of the world banking system.

Gold closed on Friday at about \$505 a ounce.

The new prices put Nigeria's high quality Bonny light crude 50 cents below the price of Forties and Brent crudes, its direct North Sea competitors.

Mr. Dikko made it plain that any cuts below the new Nigerian

price by Britain would be matched.

Nigeria's new prices, like those for the North Sea, will be backdated to Feb. 1, the announcement said.

Mr. Dikko said Nigeria remained committed to OPEC and that the British move showed the need to resume a dialogue within the organisation "and the need to begin discussions with non-OPEC crude oil exporters on long-term pricing and production policy."

Industry sources said the Nigerian government did not see its move as foreshadowing its exit from OPEC, although its membership could be in doubt if a price-cutting war developed.

Nigeria's action reflected its need for foreign currency and despair at the failure of OPEC to agree on new production quotas at a meeting in Geneva last month, they said.

Mr. Dikko said "the North Sea price reductions have ensured that there is no longer a basis in today's market for a price structure based on Arabian light priced at \$34 a barrel" — a reference to OPEC's benchmark price.

"It needs to be reiterated that the restoration of stability and the defence of crude oil markets is a responsibility for both OPEC and non-OPEC exporters alike. Both groups stand to gain by responsible action", he added.

Industry sources said it was clear Lagos was not blaming the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC), which proposed price cuts to its suppliers and customers on Friday, for Nigeria's breach of the OPEC price line.

With the world glut of oil continuing and market pressure on producers to slash charges, someone had to be first to reduce prices, the sources said.

The British decision had simply made it impossible for oil-dependent Nigeria to hold the OPEC line any longer.

They added that the new Nigerian policy of parity with North Sea prices appeared to mean that if Britain dropped the price of Forties or Brent crude to \$30 to match Bonny light then Lagos would take no action.

But if Britain attempted to undercut the new Nigerian price Lagos would reduce "cent for cent", they said.

The sources said that the British authorities had already been informed of the implications of the new Nigerian policy.

Nigeria is dependent on oil exports for more than 90 per cent of its foreign exchange. Its production plummeted early this month to under 550,000 barrels per day (b/d) against a peak of two million b/d in 1980.

"The pressure was almost un-

bearable and it really came down to whether they would cut unilaterally or collectively with OPEC once the Geneva meeting failed," one industry source said.

The sources said that in addition to matching any further North Sea price cuts below the new Nigerian levels, Lagos would also be watching Venezuela and Saudi Arabian pricing moves.

They said if it became plain those two countries were trying to maintain differentials — variations of price against the OPEC benchmark to account for quality and distance from markets — Nigeria would match them.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are accused by African producers of torpedoing the Geneva meeting by demanding that African producers double their \$1.50 a barrel differential.

Nigeria saw that as economic suicide.

In Jakarta, an official said the Nigerian announcement confirmed Indonesia's fears that OPEC's price hike had been irrevocably broken. But he said his country, the only member of OPEC in East Asia, would adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

"The next move is up to the Gulf and the Saudis and we will probably wait to see what the Saudis do before making any price changes," he said.

Cash-rich China plays markets

PEKING — While many countries are deep in recession with their foreign exchange reserves fast diminishing, cash-rich China is building a fat bank in a spread of currencies.

China was in 1981 a \$500 million net creditor to the world, at the monetary level. It had been much worse off than that shortly before. Now net foreign exchange holdings are between \$6 billion and \$7 billion.

China has in the space of a year or two emerged as a substantial factor in the currency markets of Europe and Asia as a result of a favourable movement in its balance of trade, as is indicated by its growing commercial activities.

A mixture of prudence and circumstance has given China one of the lowest debt service ratios among developing countries. Required service payments on China's gross debt are thought to have amounted to about 5 per cent of export earnings at the end of 1982.

China reported in December that at the end of the third quarter of 1982 it was holding \$9.2 billion

in foreign exchange reserves. Those holdings almost certainly exceeded \$10 billion by the end of the year. The Chinese foreign debt to be set against this is thought to amount to about \$4 billion.

What then is China doing with all its money?

Most of it, according to Western bankers in Peking, is placed on short- to medium-term deposit in world money markets, notably in Eurocurrency markets where the Bank of China's London branch has had long experience.

China is also getting into the syndicated loan business.

Over the past several years, the Bank of China has taken the lead or has acted as co-manager in a number of syndicates in Europe where it has been involved in loans to the Danish Export-Import Bank and the Italian State Railway, to name only two examples.

At the same time, China is using its reserves to refinance some of its outstanding debts, disturbingly to Western bankers who are now finding the Bank of China has emerged as a robust competitor in development financing for enterprises in China.

Last year, the Bank of China took over a loan of \$35.2 million for a big hotel project in Nanjing from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Western bankers expect the Bank of China to shift more cash from its placement in financial institutions in the West to fund development projects in China itself — at preferential rates of interest to Chinese enterprises.

Under the present corporate tax law, foreign banks are obliged to pay a 20 per cent withholding tax on profits remitted from China, an encumbrance that puts them at a severe disadvantage if they are to compete with the Bank of China, which is free of such structures.

"We're up against unbeatable competition," says one Western banker, ruefully.

China is also proposing to lend to Western enterprises investing in China.

One such case is that of Occidental Petroleum, which is a participant in a big coalmining joint venture with the Chinese at Pinghuo, west of Peking.

Bank of China officials said last year that they are considering an Occidental "request" for funds.

The Chinese would, of course, be well aware of the funding requirements with which the American company was faced as a result of its recent takeover of Cities Services, the U.S. oil services and refineries group, for \$4 billion.

Western bankers see the gro-

wing range of the Bank of China's activities as an indication that it is seeking a more international role for itself in its function as China's foreign exchange bank, as the people's republic opens further for business to the outside world.

In a further extension of its activities, the Bank of China announced recently that it planned to extend export credits to foreign buyers on a trial basis in order to promote China's exports.

According to an announcement made at the end of a national conference in Peking of Bank of China managers, the bank will make available from now until 1985 low-interest loans totalling \$500 million to "encourage exports of machinery and ships."

A pilot scheme is to be implemented first in Peking and then in the port cities of Tianjin, Shanghai and Dalian.

Bank directors also approved a 1983 work programme which envisaged the Bank of China extending loans for the Pinghuo coal development, a proposed nuclear power station in Guangdong province, offshore oil programmes, energy development in south-west China and transportation and harbour construction.

According to figures given by directors to the conference, more than 60 per cent of the Bank of China's foreign exchange loans are being directed at preferential rates of interest between 8 per cent and 10 per cent to the technical transformation of small- and medium-size enterprises.

The ratio of lending is likely, however, to swing in favour of bigger projects as China embarks on the development of major energy-related schemes such as the Guangdong power station.

The Bank of China's decision to extend export credits to foreign buyers is another indication of the growing sophistication of China's dealings with the outside world and is also recognition on Peking's part of measures needed to compete in highly competitive world markets.

China's solid trade performance in the three years from 1979 to 1981 has enabled the Chinese to convert a threatened foreign exchange deficit into a healthy surplus and has laid the basis for the Bank of China's entry into new fields of activity.

In the three years to 1981, China's exports grew at an average annual compound rate of 31.9 per cent.

In 1981, exports of \$22 billion were 129 per cent greater than they had been, at \$9.6 billion, in 1978.

The official trade figures for 1982, just released, show exports as totalling \$21.6 billion, and imports at \$17 billion, to leave China the healthy trade surplus of about \$4.6 billion.

Western economic analysis in Peking says China is now well placed to increase foreign borrowing to secure funds for huge infrastructure projects, particularly in the energy field.

China could handle a debt service ratio of 15 to 20 per cent without much trouble on the basis of present growth in its foreign trade, they argue.

Apart from its substantial foreign exchange holdings, China's gold reserves position is good.

According to monetary statistics released in December, its reserves at the end of September 1982 were 12.67 million troy ounces, valued at \$476 million at the national accounting level — and at some \$6 billion at the current free market price.

But this only tells part of the gold story.

China holds very substantial quantities indeed of "unmonetised" gold which do not show up in any official statistics.

China, Western analysts say, may be reviewing its gold reserves policy in line with an apparent change in official attitudes to a build-up of stocks and inventories.

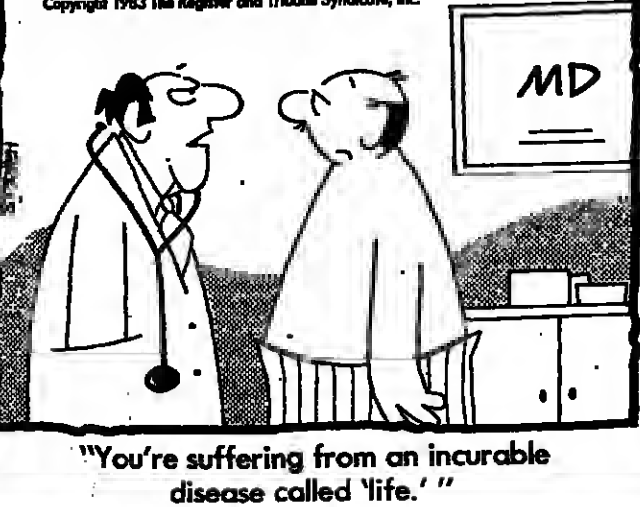
Whereas, previously, China appeared unconcerned — rather boasted — about stockpiles of such commodities as steel, it is now questioning this approach.

Whichever way you look at it, China is positioning itself for the extensive foreign borrowing programme in which it will be obliged to engage if it is to achieve its targets in energy development and in port and rail construction — the weak sectors in the economy.

— Financial Times news features

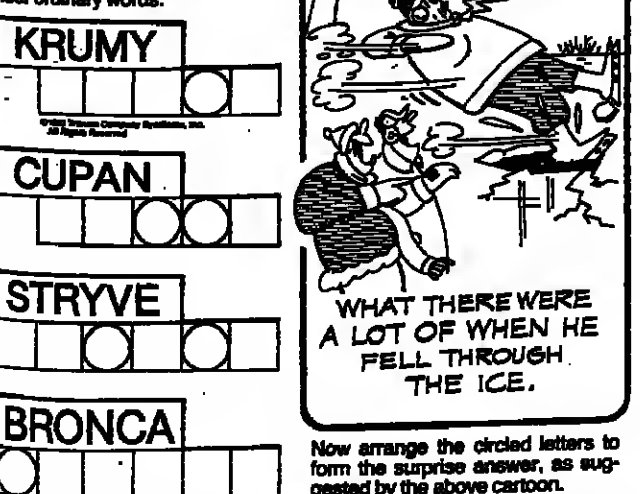
THE BETTER HALF By Harris

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JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TROTH NIPPY GAIETY JITNEY

Answer: What he said when the teacher gave him a zero for his work — THAT'S NOTHING

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEB. 21, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is your day to get together with those who can be helpful in making plans to have greater abundance in the future. The evening is fine for the entertainment of your choice.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) There could be a delay in matters you have counted on, but keep busy in other activities for the time being. Be patient.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Listen carefully to what an associate has to say because if you misunderstand this person, there could be trouble.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may begin the new week without the data you need, but later you can obtain the necessary information. Be logical.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You could be in a self-pitying mood and this could prove destructive, so count your blessings and be thankful.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Try to change conditions around you so that you can have more success and happiness. Show more devotion to loved ones.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Now is the time to hold steadfast to ideas that will help you gain your goals. Sidestep a troublemaker.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Showing others that you are good citizen is important today. Take time to study projects that could be profitable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Engaging in new interests at this time could be dangerous, so wait for a better time. Don't neglect to pay your bills.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to keep promises you've made even though you are tempted to change your mind. Be less suspicious of others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Find out what associates expect of you and do your best to please them. Make plans to have greater success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may feel like postponing an undesirable task, but this would be foolish of you. Keep busy and it will soon be behind you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Some recreation you desire is fine, provided you don't empty your wallet. Be sure to take needed health treatments.

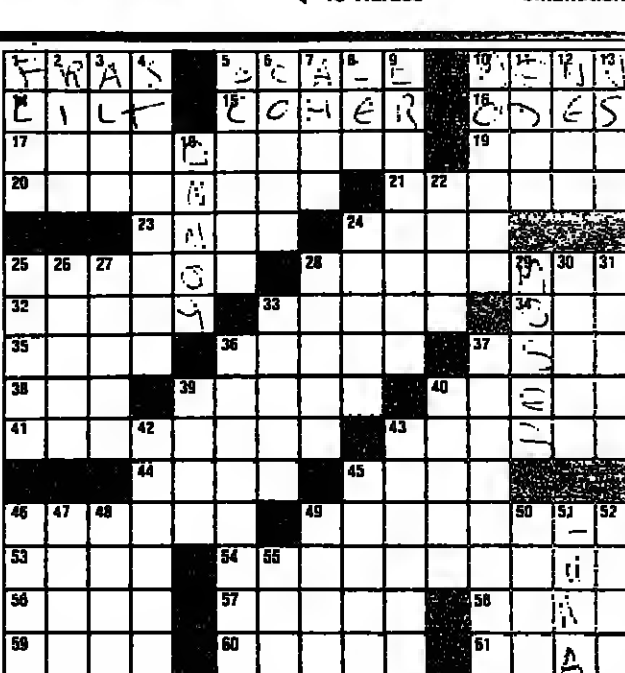
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be able to solve just about everything of a mechanical nature, but if your progeny becomes involved in emotional affairs, there could be headaches. Teach to be objective. There's a deep spiritual nature here.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword By James Brussell

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Across for monks | 33 Cowboy, at times | 49 State houses | 22 Declare to be true |
| 5 Sequence of tones | 34 Woolen cloak | 53 Walk ankle-deep | 24 Confused |
| 10 Cafe card | 35 Fabled birds | 54 Tour movie bar | 25 Argument |
| 14 Cadence | 37 Stylish | 57 Raady and willing | 26 The ones there |
| 15 Promising one | 38 Request | 58 Leas | 27 Moves back and forth |
| 16 Poems | 39 Cat | 59 Maka money | 28 Craze |
| 17 Accusatory | 40 Priggish | 60 Color experts | 29 Hebrew prophet |
| 19 Wrench | 41 Syrac version of Bible | 61 Vast expenses | 30 Baar patiently |
| 20 Annoyed | 43 Abounded | DOWN | 31 Strapped |
| 21 Tangled | 44 Persona | 1 Impertinent | 32 Sward handles |
| 23 Bugle call | 45 Poem by Byron | 2 Hoarfrost | 33 Abominated |
| 24 Prima donna | 46 Removes pits | 3 Swiss ranga | 37 Makers of originals |
| 25 Emphasize | | 4 Danger | 39 Excellent |
| 28 Motherly | | 5 Speaks imperfectly | 40 Narrows to a point |
| 32 Minor job | | 6 Steep descents | 45 Rod of tennis |
| | | 7 Surrounded by | 46 Became dizzy |
| | | 8 Bulgarian coin | 47 Vehela |
| | | 9 Recluses | 48 Husband of Frigg |
| | | 10 Pesta's partner | 49 Confine |
| | | 11 Blue pencil | 50 Curved molding |
| | | 12 Glacial snow | 51 Moon |
| | | 13 Accustomed | 52 Matched collections |
| | | 18 Harass | 55 Light emanation |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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WORLD

S. Australian bush fires under control

MELBOURNE (R) — The bush is still blazing in places, but fires which devastated large tracts of southern Australian are now under control and the nation has time at last to assess the enormity of the disaster and discover its causes.

At least 71 people died and 3,000 homes were destroyed as the flames swept parts of Victoria and South Australia states last week. Over 200,000 sheep and 12,000 cattle were also lost.

"Looters will be shot" signs have appeared outside gutted homes in an attempt to save any possessions which might have survived the fire.

The area had already been parched by the worst drought in Australia's history. Now over 200,000 square kilometres, much of it prime farmland, have been scorched black.

The fires, which started on Wednesday, were as bad in terms of lives as the worst in the country's history on "Black Friday" in 1939 when 71 people died in Victoria.

Arson suspected

Fire chiefs who believe the latest blazes could have been acts of arson are probing the ashes for evidence, such as petrol cans. Arsonists are responsible for one

Cows explode

GRAVOC, Australia (R) — Farmers talk of cows exploding from the heat when sheets of flame, as high as the gum trees, raced in from the Australian grasslands in

devastating bush fires that have taken at least 71 human lives.

Years of drought had already reduced the grasslands, to what appeared to be a white carpet, rolled out across the state of Victoria's rich stock belt, 320 kilometres west of Melbourne.

On Wednesday, as temperatures hit about 40 degrees Centigrade (104 Fahrenheit), the carpet caught fire, burning alive or maiming 4,750 cattle and more than 10,000 sheep.

Eight people died among the farming community around the town of Garvoc, 225 kilometres southwest of Melbourne. Two fathers and their sons burned to death in their cars while trying to flee the flames.

Now trucks from the meat canning company pass along dusty roads taking blistered and lame cattle to abattoirs for emergency slaughter.

But most of the dead cattle and sheep were unfit to eat and have been buried in 11 pits on the edge of fields.

Many cows with burned udders and sheep with their wool seared off were shot between the eyes to put them out of their misery.

"This is what it did," said farmer Ted Bennett, kicking pats of cow and sheep dung.

"They got alight and the wind blew them around the farms. It wouldn't have been so bad otherwise."

As his herd of 95 dairy cows galloped in panic from the rushing fire, the wind changed and instead of killing the cows burned down his house and hay barns.

The cows used to give about 100 gallons (380 litres) of milk a day. Over the last two days they have produced 10 gallons (38 litres).

"They're still frightened. They're just drying up. There's not much milk and not much water to give them," Mr. Bennett said.

In the aftermath of the fire, overhead power lines are also being blamed for the extent of the devastation. When the pylons fell, the sparks set off more fires and electricity was cut to the pumps bringing up borehole water.

With milk supplies now virtually ceased, milk tankers are taking water to the farms, where the cows practically stampeded to get at it.

Although he now lives in a caravan alongside his ruined house, Mr. Bennett was luckier than some. At least the wind spared his cattle.

Farmers lose all

Many of the farmers lost everything

rything and compare themselves with the 8,000 townsfolk, who may have been made homeless but still have jobs and an income.

"We've got nothing coming in," said Mr. Bennett. "A lot of us have already borrowed money to tide us over the drought."

The last time Mr. Bennett saw rain was 1.5 inches (38 ml) in October. And before that? He shrugs at the question.

In the town's mechanics institute hall, farmers come in to pick up donated clothes, have a cup of tea and talk over what they are going to do.

A picture of Queen Elizabeth hangs on the wall, a reminder that most of the people there are descendants of British settlers.

They worry about where the bay is coming from, because so much of Australia is affected by drought that there is little to spare.

They discuss trying to wean the cows onto wheat pellets, which one calls "starvation rations."

There are not many centres left in the region, which looks like a huge charred paddock. The ground is so hard that it would break any known plough and re-seeding is impossible.

It will take years to restore the land. Only rain can bring relief. But there is no hope in the weather forecast.

Over 500 die in Assam

By Najmul Hasan

NELLIE, India (R) — At least 500 villagers, many of them women and children, were killed by frenzied tribesmen on Friday in central Assam, local Indian officials said here Sunday.

Sixteen villages were wiped out in the attack on hundreds of immigrant families, mostly Muslims from Bangladesh, living in the rugged central Nowgong district of the north-east Indian state.

Police said they had collected 200 bodies and several hundred more were lying in fields where they were cut down by the tribesmen, using bows and arrows, axes, guns and spears.

I counted at least 150 corpses, many with gaping wounds and covered in mud, lying in open land and amid the debris of charred villages.

Earlier, India's two main news agencies had reported that at least 250 villagers, many of them women and children had died in two frenzied days of killing in central Assam.

The agencies said the killings took place in a string of villages around Nellie in the central Nowgong area of Assam state, where voting had been taking place all week for a 126-seat local assembly.

Sunday, at one centre where bodies were being collected ready for burial, I saw the blood-caked bodies of 16 children laid out in a row.

Some were beheaded and already decomposing.

More than 500 people were wounded in the bloodshed, which continued all Friday and the first part of Saturday.

Many were lying untreated with festering wounds in the open grounds of a school, in this small immigrant village, some 70 kilometres east of Gauhati, which was the centre of the massacre.

Police said more than 6,000 people from 16 villages were made homeless refugees. Their poor hamlets, spread over 30 square kilometres of mostly harsh scrubland, were razed to the ground by the attackers who set fire to hundreds of thatched-roof huts.

When the tribesmen attacked one village, a six-metre wide stream cut off the escape of the desperate immigrants. Many women and children died while trying to wade across.

The last round of Assam's elections was scheduled for Sunday, but polling in nine assembly seats has been postponed until Monday because officials were unable to go to voting stations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Karachi police detain 12 Iranian students

KARACHI (R) — Police detained a dozen Iranian students in Karachi Sunday after bomb blasts shattered five French offices Saturday night, authoritative sources said. Local newspapers said the blasts might be linked to reports of recent French arms sales to Iran's warring neighbour Iraq. The Karachi Star newspaper reported that police believed that attacks were carried out by "Iranian commandos."

Pregnant orang-utan bites top surgeon

LONDON (R) — One of Britain's top surgeons has cancelled his appointments after being bitten by a pregnant orang-utan. Gynaecologist William Whitehouse was paying a call on one of London Zoo's most important mothers-to-be — Bulu, the first orang-utan to be born and raised in England. Bulu, due to give birth early this summer, grew cross when Mr. Whitehouse made the mistake of peering too closely at her bulging stomach. Without warning, the 21-year-old ape sank her teeth into his hand. "Women are all the same," the surgeon said later. "They get irritable when they're pregnant."

Schoolgirl refuses to dissect rats

PONTYPRIDD, Wales (R) — Animal-loving schoolgirl Claire Mattheyr risks failing a vital exam because she refuses to cut up a dead rat. Claire, 17, says she will have nothing to do with dissecting bodies even if it means a heavy loss of marks in the biology paper she has to produce for her A-level examinations — the test that determines whether students qualify for university. "It is wrong to kill any animal," she said. "It is an unnecessary sacrifice of small creatures in the cause of education." Teacher Derek Griffiths said of Claire's protest: "It's the first time I've come across anything like this in 25 years of teaching. But of course I respect her views."

Battles rage around Salvadorean town

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Fierce fighting from Friday till Saturday has failed to shake leftist guerrillas' control of the main road into the town of Suchitoto which has been under insurgent siege for a week, military spokesmen said Sunday. They said the army and guerrillas exchanged heavy fire throughout Friday night but the guerrillas still held positions along the road and on the periphery of the small town which lies some 45 kilometres north of the capital, San Salvador.

Border war rages in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (R) — Nicaraguan troops are locked in fierce fighting with right wing guerrillas near the Honduran border, the defence ministry said. The ministry said more than 50 guerrillas had been killed or wounded so far in clashes around Quilali in northern Nueva Segovia province. Government losses were put at eight dead. Chinese-made weapons were seized in the fighting, the ministry said, adding that guerrillas had been operating in the area since Feb. 9. In Managua, six captured guerrillas — two of them youths aged 15 and 13 — were freed Saturday after they renounced their intent to topple the leftist government.

Purge reported from Soviet Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party chief in the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan disclosed this week that there had been a purge in the republic, according to a local newspaper which reached Moscow Saturday. Kiyamran Bagirov told a meeting of the republic's Communist Party that several party and state officials had been sacked, expelled from the party or sentenced for criminal offences. Mr. Bagirov, elected party chief last December in place of Geidar Aliyev, indicated he would continue to pursue ruthless disciplinary policies adopted by his predecessor.

Nkomo sent home after police detention

HARARE (R) — Veteran Zimbabwe opposition leader Josua Nkomo was resting at home Sunday after being taken off an international flight and detained by police for eight hours.

Mr. Nkomo, 65, the major political figure in the troubled southwestern province of Matabeleland, said he had no idea why he was held in a Bulawayo police camp for most of Saturday.

He told Reuters he was searched thoroughly and his passport and tickets were confiscated, but he was not told he was absolutely forbidden from leaving the country. He added that three aides taken in with him were still detained Saturday night.

"I just don't know what the position is," he said. A government spokesman confirmed that Mr. Nkomo had been prevented from leaving the country and had been held for some time before being allowed to return to his home in Bulawayo.

Bulawayo is the capital of Matabeleland province and centre of the power base of Mr. Nkomo's ZAPU Party.

The government spokesman said he expected a full police statement on the incident, perhaps Sunday.

The spokesman, information director Justin Nyoka, said earlier in the day that he believed the government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, which has accused Mr. Nkomo of subversive activities, did not want him to leave Zimbabwe at this time.

He referred to a major treason trial in Harare in which top Nkomo aides, Dumiso Dabengwa and Lt. Gen. Lookout Masuku, are accused of plotting against the state.

"In view of the trial and the incriminating evidence we are getting the government would not be happy to have him leave the country,"

he said. "We think he has certain charges to answer."

The government has blamed Mr. Nkomo and ZAPU for a wave of anti-government violence in Matabeleland. Rebels have killed at least 120 people in the year since Mr. Nkomo was fired from the coalition cabinet on suspicion of plotting a coup.

Mr. Nkomo strongly denies the allegation and has accused government forces of going on an orgy of murder, rape and looting during anti-rebel operations in Matabeleland.

Zimbabwe's other main opposition leader, former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith who heads the all-white Republican Front, had his passport withdrawn last year after he attacked Mr. Mugabe's government during a visit to the United States.

Mr. Nkomo said he had been due to address a meeting in Prague of the World Peace Council, of which he is a vice president, next Monday and Tuesday.

He was seated in a South African Airways plane, ready to fly to Johannesburg for a connecting flight to Czechoslovakia, when he was seized by uniformed police.

Party officials and his family said they spent hours trying to find out where he had been taken and finally traced him to a police camp in suburban Bulawayo. He was allowed to see a lawyer but not his wife, they said.

Mr. Nkomo, at home and in apparent good spirits Saturday night, said he still hoped to be able to travel to Prague.

He was reluctant to discuss his detention — his first in the independent Zimbabwe he fought for through years of white minority rule.

2 Chinese held for mass killing in Seattle

SEATTLE (R) — Two young men born in Hong Kong have been held in connection with the mass killing of 12 men and a woman in a private club in Seattle's Chinatown district, police said Sunday.

The victims, all Asians, had their hands and feet bound and were shot in the head. They were found by police lying in pools of blood after the only survivor managed to untie himself and crawl into an adjoining alley where he called to a passer-by for help.

The wounded man was under heavy guard in a hospital Sunday. Police refused to give details of his injuries but he was also believed to have been shot in the head.

Police said the two men being held, aged 20 and 22, were believed to have lived in Seattle for some time.

A third man was detained soon after the shootings but was released. Police said they were still seeking another man.

The police said they believed high stakes gambling was taking place in the Wah Mee Club when the killers entered Saturday and robbery was apparently the motive for the murders.

A coroner's spokesman said the victims were aged between 20 and 60 and the woman was middle-aged.

"They were bound hand and feet together like pigs and slaughtered," police official said.

There has been gang warfare in the Chinatown area in the past, but police said they did not believe gangs were connected with the murders.

British press reveals 'mole'

LONDON (R) — A British workman fitting windows at the Soviet trade delegation in London helped to unmask four suspected spies who were expelled, the Observer Sunday newspaper said.

It said the workman was able to help British security services identify Soviet intelligence agents among the 630 officials at the sprawling trade centre at Highgate in North London.

He was one of a team of British workmen hired by the Soviets to renovate the building in 1979. During the next two years he was able to photograph documents, bug at least one meeting in the building and check cars.

The four men expelled as suspected spies were Victor Lazine, second secretary at the Soviet embassy, trade delegation member Vladimir Zadrnevsky, naval attaché Anatoly Zhotov and Vladimir Chernov, an interpreter at the London-based International Wheat Council.

Initially the Soviet staff watched the workmen carefully, giving each an individual guard, but security soon slackened, the Observer said, and guards were bribed with cans of beer.

The agent established that one Soviet intelligence man who had escaped British surveillance was leaving the building each morning hidden in a school bus, the Observer said.

Pretoria claims to have checked SWAPO attack

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African security forces have killed 96 guerrillas of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) in Namibia (South West Africa) in the last few days, according to forces headquarters.

The deaths, announced Saturday at the headquarters in the Namibian capital of Windhoek, followed a new insurgent offensive which has cast a shadow over proposed border peace talks between South Africa and Angola.

On Friday South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said a delegation would probably meet Angolan officials in the Cape Verde Islands next week.

Announcing the impending discussions, Mr. Botha said the chances of an accord were tenuous and referred obliquely to certain events — which had come to the government's attention.

Saturday's statement appeared to back up Mr. Botha's caution about the outcome of the talks. It said the raid by SWAPO, which has fought a lengthy bush war against South African rule in the territory, was expected.

Military commentators said South African and Angolan troops

had exercised restraint in contacts during recent months, but they added that developments this week illustrated South Africa's continuing concern with SWAPO.

On Thursday, the security forces said they had killed 17 SWAPO guerrillas in western Ovambo close to the Angolan border. It was not immediately clear whether the total announced Saturday included those deaths.

The clashes were a repeat of events during the rainy season nearly a year ago, when South Africa claimed to have tracked and killed most of a guerrilla force involved in a raid on white farms.

Despite the latest clashes, diplomats hoped South Africa and Angola would still go ahead with the planned talks and would be eager to build on a first round of discussions held in Cape Verde last year.

Apart from the question of a possible border ceasefire, official sources were quoted in Luanda as saying the proposed meeting would focus on speeding up the implementation of United Nations wishes on the territory.

Namibia is controlled by South Africa in defiance of the U.N.

Zimbabwean soldier charged with murder

HARARE (R) — A government soldier will be charged with the murder of a young white boy in the southwestern Zimbabwe province of Matabeleland, the Sunday Mail newspaper reported.

Roy Lahee, five, was shot 10 days ago as his family drove home to a mine some 30 kilometres north of Zimbabwe's border with Botswana.

His father, mine manager Terry Lahee, 37, told reporters at the time that government troops had opened fire on their car. Roy was shot through the neck and died instantly, he said.

The Sunday Mail said a soldier arrested by police would be charged with the boy's murder and the attempted murder of his mother Molly, 33, who was shot in the arm.

Uganda acts to prevent bomb attacks

NAIROBI (R) — Uganda's defence ministry has received information that anti-government guerrillas are planning to bomb strategic targets in Kampala, Uganda Radio said Sunday.

The radio, monitored here, said security forces had taken precautions against such attacks and residents said parking had been banned along the main street of the city.

Last year a bomb was detonated in a car parked alongside the headquarters of the ruling Uganda People's Congress (UPC) in central Kampala.

Anti-government guerrilla groups recently claimed to have stepped up their attacks on the government of President Milton Obote in areas near the Ugandan capital.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.1 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ K109542 ♥ QJ963 ♦ 5 ♠ Q

The bidding has proceeded: North East South

1 ♠ 1 ♠ ?

What action do you take?

Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 873 ♥ KJ8 ♦ QJ ♠ 98742

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 84 ♠ 987542 ♦ 6 ♠ QJ5

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 2 NT

Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ K1093 ♥ AKQ4 ♦ A873 ♠ 6

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ AQ1054 ♥ 6 ♦ KQ982 ♠ 83

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

2 ♥ Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ AJ82 ♥ AQ95 ♦ 7 ♠ AJ102

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?